

5 APRIL 1975

Say CIA Recovered Entire Red Sub

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, April 4 (News Bureau) — Soviet intelligence agents are saying that the CIA's effort to recover a sunken Soviet submarine from the Pacific last summer was a complete success, The News learned today.

There have been conflicting reports from sources here over just how much of the diesel-powered "golf" class submarine was pulled from 17,000 feet beneath the surface about 700 miles northwest of Hawaii. Most reports say that the Howard Hughes-developed salvage vessel, Glomar Explorer, hoisted only a third of the sub after it broke up, leaving behind the important code and nuclear-tipped missiles.

Soviet authorities have not commented publicly about the Central Intelligence Agency's effort, but some have privately been very concerned about the new deep-sea recovery capacity the U.S. has developed, it was said.

A KBG official told one of his regular contacts recently that reports that the bodies of 70 Soviet seamen — most of the crew — had been brought up in only one-third of the submarine are unbelievable. He said that he is convinced the entire craft was raised.

The Soviets also were said to believe that the CIA intelligence agency leaked news of the salvage mission to take the minds of the American public off the agency's faltering image at home. The CIA is being investigated by two congressional committees and a presidential commission. They are checking allegations that the CIA, barred by its charter from domestic snooping, broke into the homes of Americans, in the U.S., wiretapped phones and illegally opened private mail.

CIA officials insist that they did not leak word of the salvage mission. They say that director William Colby tried to stop newspapers from reporting the story.

Makes an Admission

Colby did fill in some news organizations with more information than they had. In fact, he gave the story to a media organization which had little hint about what was happening.

It appeared unlikely that any CIA employees would be prosecuted by the Justice Department for any break-ins, wiretaps or illicit mail "covers," reliable sources said.

Colby has admitted in congressional testimony that the agency had broken into the homes or offices of four agents or ex-agents and installed dozens of wiretaps. Recently, postal officials revealed a 20-year CIA letter-opening campaign in several post offices in key port cities, including New York.

Justice Department officials refused to comment on their investigation of the CIA. The mail opening presents a larger problem because it was done on a wide scale and a national security argument is probably implausible, it was said. Ex-CIA agents argue that the mail of virtually anyone writing to Communist countries was opened and most represented no security threat. Prosecution seems slim because some sources have said the orders came from past CIA directors who stand little chance of being tried.

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